As regards the Andhra Pradesh Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1986, it was received on 17.9.86 and is engaging the attending of the Government of India, and is likely to be finalised soon.

India's exports

1754. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports have improved during 1986-87 as reported in the Hindu of the 30th May, 1987; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that exports have improved largely due to exports of fruits and vegetables, meat, marine and fish products, all of which are essential protective foods already in short supply especially for the vulnerable groups;

(c) whether higher exports are also due to the export of animal feeds which are again in short supply leading to gift imports of milk products even with the attendant danger of radioactivity; and

(d) whether a rational national policy will be evolved in regard to exports as even small exports of the above items have a spiralling effect on the consumer prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) According to the provisional data, India's exports during 1986-87 amounted to Rs. 12550.06 crores as compared to Rs. 10420.37 crores during 1985-86, thereby registering a growth of 20.4 per cent.

(b) The exports of Fruits and Vegetables declined from Rs. 175 crores during 1985-86 to Rs. 146 crores during 1986-87. The exports of meat and meat products increased from Rs. 72 crores during 1985-86 to Rs. 76 crores during 1986-87. The export of Marine products increased from Rs. 388 crores during 1985-86 to Rs. 477 crores during 1986-87. These items put together have accounted only for an increase of Rs. 65 crores out of a total increase of Rs. 2130 crores in India's exports during 1986-87 as compared to 1985-86. In terms of domestic availability, the exports of these items constitute a very small percentage which will not substantially affect availability of these items in the domestic market.

(c) The exports of oil cakes showed a substantial improvement during 1986-87 largely on account of higher off-take of soyameal extraction. The animal husbandry practices presently being followed in most parts of the country and the cost of purchasing animal feeds which has become a determent has resulted in generating exportable surplus of oil meals in the country. The exports of oil meals are not, therefore, being conducted at the cost of domestic availability. The exports of oil meals are also not in any way related to the gift import of milk products.

(d) The exports of items are permitted keeping into view the aspects of domestic availability and internal prices of various commodities of mass consumpton. The Export Policy is framed only after visualising the quantum of exportable surplus available in each commodity. The Export Policy of price sensitive items such as onions etc. is also controlled with a view to ensuring that domestic consumers do not suffer on account of exports. The Policy is also reviewed from time to time to ensure that necessary changes are made if required keeping in view the interest of domestic consumers.

Closure of Sriram Rayon's Kota plant

1755. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sriram Rayon has finally applied to the Government of